

He Is Honored

COMMISSIONER SCOTT

BANQUETED

Honoring a Worthy Young Man

Mr. Emmett J. Scott, of Tuskegee, Alabama, was the guest of honor last Thursday evening at a magnificent banquet at Gray's Cafe, 1313 E street, northwest, tendered by upwards of a hundred citizens of Washington and representative colored men of the country at large. The function was designed as a compliment to Mr. Scott's very satisfactory service as a member of the Commission sent by the United States Government to investigate the political, social and industrial conditions of the West African Republic and to suggest ways and means by which this nation could intervene in behalf of its struggling foster-child. It was the aim of the Commission to discover, if possible, some method by which Liberia's threatened dismemberment at the hands of foreign powers could be prevented, and how the United States might assist in the development of its vast natural resources and to build up a commerce worthy of the name. Mr. Scott and his associates spent several weeks in Liberia and the bordering countries and their report is now in course of preparation for presentation to the President and the State Department.

Mr. Ralph W. Tyler, Auditor for the Navy Department, acted as toastmaster, and set a new pace in that important office by his witty sallies, good-humored jibes and satirical references to the current happenings in which the speakers were prominently identified. Mr. James A. Cobb, Assistant United States Attorney, responding to the toast, "Our Guest," paid a lofty tribute to the work and worth of the Commissioner-Diplomat, to which Mr. Scott replied in fitting terms, giving a clear and comprehensive, yet modest statement of what the representatives of the United States had tried to accomplish through their investigations in the "Dark Continent." Without forestalling his official report to the government, Mr. Scott told in an entertaining way of the character of the people in control of Liberia, of their habits and customs, and lauded the open-handed hospitality which greeted the Commissioners from the time they set foot upon the African shore until they regretfully said "Adieu." He painted a hopeful picture of the future of the Republic, as he had perceived within the elements of a strong national character, a determination to preserve their territorial rights and an intense desire to keep abreast of the ideals and standards set by the people of America. Mr. Scott considers Liberia the richest spot on the face of the earth, considering its area, and felt that with the proper help, the patriots there could establish for all time to come a tangible evidence of the self-governing ability of the black man. Mr. Scott's remarks were listened to with the closest attention and at the close he was given an ovation, the guests rising and drinking a toast to his continued good health and happiness.

Others who responded to appropriate toasts were Major John R. Lynch, paymaster in the United States Army; Judge Robert H. Terrell, of Recorder of Deeds; W. T. Vernon, the Municipal Court; John C. Dancy, Register of the Treasury; Professor Roscoe Conkling Bruce, Assistant Superintendent of the public schools; Dr. W. Bruce Evans, Principal of Armstrong Technical High School; Drs. A. M. Curtis, E. D. Williston, and C. Y. Childs; Mr. R. R. Horner, of the Board of Education; Mr. Gilchrist Stewart, of New York; and Architect W. Sidney Pittman. All of the speeches were of an unusually high order—spicy, eloquent and informing, abounding at every possible point in praise of the wisdom and executive capacity of the guest of honor and predicting even greater achievements for him in the afterlife.

Letters and telegrams, regretting inability to be present, were received from prominent men throughout the country, among them Dr. Booker T. Washington, Principal of Tuskegee Institute; Honorable W. H. Lewis,

of Boston; Honorable Charles W. Anderson, of New York; Honorable Harry S. Cummings, of Baltimore; Fred. R. Moore, of New York, Editor of the New York Age; Attorney Thomas L. Jones, of the District bar; and Major R. R. Moton, of Hampton Institute.

Dr. Washington's telegram was in part, as follows:

"Very glad indeed Washington people are honoring Mr. Scott in way he deserves for hard and successful work he has accomplished on the Liberian Commission. He has acquitted himself in a creditable and praiseworthy manner."

As is well-known to the country, Mr. Scott has been, for more than twelve years, the faithful, discreet and far-seeing private secretary to Dr. Washington, and the latter loses no opportunity to express his sincere appreciation of the painstaking service rendered by this estimable young man, and candidly admits his indispensability to the well-being of the Tuskegee Institute and its allied activities. Mr. Scott is a native of Texas and graduated from Wiley University at Houston. A few years ago his alma mater conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts.

Since the formation of the National Negro Business League by Dr. Booker T. Washington in Boston in 1900, Mr. Scott has been corresponding secretary of that great agency for commercial uplift, and has been the "right hand" of his distinguished chief in promoting its growth year by year. It was due to the agitation and persistent following up of the matter that there are today three Negro bandmasters in the colored regiments of the United States Army, and through him President Roosevelt was moved to order that all of the four regiments be provided with Negro chief musicians, as rapidly as openings could be made.

The very congenial company which assembled to do honor to Commissioner Scott on this occasion included beside those already mentioned:

R. W. Thompson, Cyrus F. Adams, Robert A. Pelham, A. O. Stafford, A. F. Hillyer, H. C. Tyson, Arthur C. Newman, A. H. Glenn, James E. Walker, John C. Nalle, W. Calvin Chase, Arthur S. Gray, James W. Gray, Wyatt Archer, Dr. C. Sumner Wormley, George W. Davis, George F. Collins, Oliver Randolph, Thomas J. Calloway, John T. Howe, Charles T. Pointer, and Whitfield McInlay.

POSTSCRIPTS

The menu was delightful. Caterer James W. Bray showed the genuine "Chamberlain form" and spared neither pains nor expense to set out the best the market afforded.

It was James A. Cobb's first experience as chairman of a big banquet committee and he handled the delicate situation with the skill of a veteran, besides making the "speech of his life" in eulogy of the honored guest. It was Cobb's night to shine—and he shone.

Although compelled to come on crutches, on account of his recent siege of rheumatism, Editor W. Calvin Chase was on hand early. Nothing but his deep admiration for Mr. Scott could have drawn him from his home at night.

Judge Terrell's beautiful tribute to his old friend and patron, Major John R. Lynch, was one of the most impressive flights of the evening. As an all-around after dinner speaker, the Judge stands in a class alone.

As toastmaster, Auditor Tyler handed out a few "hot ones" that made everybody sit up and take notice—wondering what kind of a griddle he would use to broil his next victim upon. His baseball allegory, describing the school fight as it appeared on the diamond, brought down the house and prepared the guests to hear from Assistant Superintendent Bruce.

The wisecracks are trying to see where Gilchrist Stewart got his authority for pronouncing "cons" as if spelled with a long "a." The Brownsville hero soared higher than Orville Wright's aeroplane, but came down without a scratch, amid the cheers of the groundlings.

Dr. Washington's telegram of generous commendation of Commissioner Scott's labors was another significant



MR. EMMETT J. SCOTT, WHO WAS HONORED BY THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON ON HIS RETURN FROM LIBERIA

indication of the breadth of the man. The "Wizard" never hesitates to "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," and is ever ready to share the spotlight with those who merit a place therein.

If there were any factions present, they kept the fact a dark secret. And there was no odor of the oil that might have been used to still the erstwhile troubled waters.

Major Lynch looked more vigorous that he did in the old days when he was "Fourth Auditor of the Treasury," and led the valiant Mississippi clans to victory in the quadrennial battles at the national conventions. His able speech recalled the historical convention of 1884, when he was temporary chairman by motion of Theodore Roosevelt, and brought up the vivid recollection that at the age of twenty-four he was elected to Congress over the redoubtable General Chalmers in the famous "Shoestring district" of Mississippi.

The toastmaster's gentle hint that Dr. E. D. Williston's inauguration day staff got "cold feet" and failed to materialize on account of the weather and other things, may be taken by the friends of the genial medico as a capsule suggestion that he should have another chance on March 4, 1913.

The signal success of the Scott banquet is all the more creditable to the committee because it is the third \$2 spread for much the same company within the brief period of two months—and heretofore such "gilt-edged" "feeds" have been held not oftener than once or twice in a given year.

"The finest affair in a long time," was the unanimous verdict.

President William Howard Taft got an enthusiastic "hand" for appointing Commissioner Scott and giving him the opportunity to show the kind of metal he is made of.

The Commissioner's speech was a model of good taste and his story of the incidents of the trip and the honors lavished upon the trio, was devoid of anything savoring of bombast or "I-ism." It was gratifying to hear of the royal treatment accorded Mr. Scott, by the officers of the ships, refuting the silly effort of the bourgeois New York Press to stir up race friction just upon the eve of sailing for Africa.

The floral decorations were the talk of those inclined to aestheticism, and the well-trained husbands carried a souvenir bouquet home to their "better halves."

Dr. Evans bore a striking resemblance to the multi-millionaire "Count of Monte Cristo." His speech was a telling one and the educational authorities could have found no paragraph that required the use of the "blue pencil."

From the advertisement received for his abilities as a "nurse," Dr. Curtis should have no trouble in securing a houseful of diplomatic patients when he opens his sanitarium.

Professor Bruce admirably "side-stepped the trap which the wily toastmaster framed up for his feet. No-

body has ever been known to catch the bland assistant superintendent napping.

Register Vernon's classic figures and rose-colored periods gave evidence that he can twang the harp of forensic eulogium with the best of them, without drawing on "King John," "Runnymede," or "Magna Charta." The silver-tongued Kansan has no peer in the art of putting things gracefully, sympathetically and sincerely.

The newspaper men were "on the job."

Dividing the "big guns" at each end of the table was an innovation for which Caterer Gray deserves credit. There was no way for the crowd to lose its mental balance.

Over here we "tip" those who serve us. In Liberia they "dash" them. The — frequently means something else on this side of the water.

R. W. Thompson.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION

Attorney Joseph H. Stewart and Others Speak—Attorney L. M. King Not Greeted With Applause—His Interview

There was quite a number of citizens assembled in True Reformers' Hall last Monday night to listen to protests against the management of the colored schools. The first speech was delivered by N. P. Marshall, a member of the local bar, who said:

Assured of Hearing by Congress "I have been assured that a hearing will be given the matter," said N. P. Marshall, President of the association, who presided, "and to Congress we propose to take it if necessary." It was also proposed to bring the attention of the city at large to the alleged unsavory conditions in the colored schools by a series of mass meetings to be held in different sections of the city at frequent intervals this fall, at which the various questions involved are to be discussed from all standpoints. These meetings will primarily be under the supervision of the Citizen's Association.

The principal address last night was made by President Marshall, who was succeeded in turn by Rev. D. F. Rivers, Alexander C. Garnet, L. M. King and Joseph H. Stewart. Each of them delivered short talks, Mr. King being introduced as "a friend of the opposition."

As Attorney King arose to address the meeting quite a number of ladies left the hall and remarked that they would not stay to listen to him. Attorney King said:

"It is not my purpose or intention in what I shall say to defend or approve any particular individual or school policy," said Mr. King. "I merely wish to express my sentiments, as I believe to be the right of every American citizen on an occasion of this kind. Judging from the remarks of the President, it appears that this meeting was called for the purpose of denouncing the Assistant Superintendent, Roscoe Conkling Bruce. And he has been denounced in the most scathing terms. If we are to believe what has been said about him, the average ten-year-old schoolboy is better fitted for his position than he is. Be this as it may, the Board of Education has considered these charges and Mr.

scathing terms. If we are to believe what has been said about him, the average ten-year-old schoolboy is better fitted for his position than he. Be this as it may, the Board of Education has considered these charges and Mr. Bruce has been exonerated. This board is a properly constituted body to take such actions. This being true, what possible good can be accomplished by the holding of indignation meetings against Mr. Bruce?"

"We are here to discuss the unsatisfactory school administration which has existed in this city for the past two years," Mr. Marshall said. "It is characterized by oppression, gag rule and internal discord of all kinds, and it is our purpose in the citizens' association here to remedy the conditions so far as it lays in our power."

Teachers Afraid to Appear "The gag rule complained of is responsible, I have no doubt, for the total absence of teachers in this audience. They have not put in an appearance for fear of a possible reprimand or dismissal by their superior."

The speaker disclaimed any intention as the head of the agitation movement of seeking a school office for himself.

He reiterated that the sole hope of reward of all the agitators of the present movement was the realization of a clean, unbiased administration of the colored schools of the District.

Mr. Marshall reviewed the history of the public schools for the past 12 years and traced the origin of the connection of Mr. Bruce with the system.

"He is a theorist, he is unfair and unfit for his work here. He has every colored school in the city in an uproar and in discord," said Mr. Marshall in conclusion.

The meeting lasted until well toward midnight, adjourning at the call of the president.

that they and some of their followers were so blinded in their prejudicial feelings against Mr. Bruce that they were unwilling to hear the other side. "Wise men err, fools never."

"I only spoke five minutes and was then stopped by the president who had himself spoken one hour, besides two other affirmative speakers who

PUBLIC SCHOOL INDIGNATION MEETING

Lawyer L. Melendez King Interviewed as to his Remarks at True Reformers' Hall

A representative of The Bee saw Lawyer L. Melendez King for an interview as to his connection with the indignation school meeting held at True Reformers' Hall Monday, July 19, 1909.

Mr. King was asked, "How about the newspaper statements that you led the opposition for Mr. Bruce and were hissed, etc.?"

Mr. King replied:

I have no personal knowledge of any hissing while I was speaking. I believe that such newspaper reports were circulated by the anti-Bruce faction in order to discredit anyone holding an opposite view to the one entertained by them. If there was hissing, as they say, is only showed consumed considerable time. I was not given a "square deal," after being called on to speak. The facts are that I was passing the hall and was asked to come in and take a seat on the stage. I was not formally invited to speak and was surprised that I was called on. However, I spoke as follows:

"It is not my purpose or intention, in what I shall say, to defend or approve any particular individual or school policy. I merely wish to express my sentiments as I believe to be the right of every American citizen on an occasion of this kind. Judging from the remarks of the President, it appears that this meeting was called for the purpose of denouncing the Assistant Superintendent, Roscoe Conkling Bruce. And he has been denounced in the most scathing terms. If we are to believe what has been said about him, the average ten-year-old schoolboy is better fitted for his position than he is. Be this as it may, the Board of Education has considered these charges and Mr.

Bruce has been exonerated. This Board is a properly constituted body to take such actions. This being true, what possible good can be accomplished by the holding of indignation meetings against Mr. Bruce?"

"More like holding an indignation meeting against the school board than against some individual. Still, the latter course, in my judgement, under the circumstances, would be exceedingly unwise to be indulged in by good citizens; such a course would be revolutionary in its nature and repugnant to our form of government. The School Board was placed in its present position by the properly constituted authority, to perform its duty the best it could under the circumstances. It has performed its work, attended to its business, and the wiser course would be for every man here to be at home, or some place else, attending to his duty. In my opinion he would reflect more credit upon himself and his race by so doing."

A WORTHY REPRESENTATIVE

Honorable Simon Guggenheimer, of Denver, Colorado, who is now serving his first term as United States Senator from that State, is making a record of which his constituents should feel proud. He is a strict party man and has stood by his party during the long debate on the tariff. He has been in constant attendance, never having missed a roll call.

This well known party man does not pose as an orator, but is a ready debater on all questions, especially those concerning his party or state.

For a long time Mr. Guggenheimer occupied a seat on the Democratic side of the Senate, but now he has a permanent seat on the Republican side of the Senate, where he is always surrounded by the leaders of the party discussing important questions of state or some important bill. As a



senator from the great State of Colorado, and the only Republican from that State, he has a great responsibility upon his shoulders.

He is also National Committeeman from Colorado. No man stands higher with his party, and a heftier prosperity of the Republican party in Colorado depends upon his wise judgement, and The Bee feels safe in saying that his party will give him loyal support which will redeem the State from Democratic rule and control in 1910 and place her once more in the Republican column where she rightly belongs.

The Bee extends to the voters of Colorado its hearty congratulations in having such an able representative as Senator Guggenheimer to represent Colorado at the time when the rights and liberties of the American Negro are involved. It is the duty of every colored American in the State of Colorado to stand by the party and its able senator.

POPULAR BUSINESS MAN

The Bee presents to its readers Mr. Thomas Ruppert, of 145 B street, southeast. Mr. Ruppert was engaged in the grocery business in South Washington for over twenty years before he went into the saloon business. His patrons consist of the best class of white and colored citizens. This is one of the most popular resorts in the section. He keeps no "Jim Crow" bar. He treats all citizens alike. Give him a call.

Read The Bee.